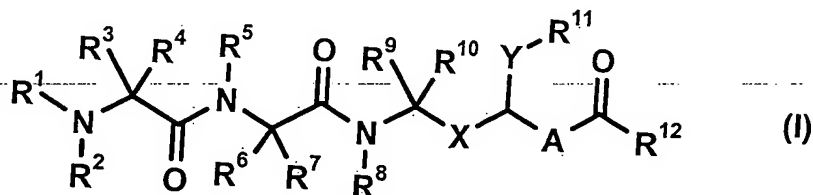


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claims 1-6. (cancelled)

Claim 7. (new) A compound of the general formula U-V-W, wherein U refers to the formula (I),



wherein

A is an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered heteroarylen ring;

X is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a group of the formula NR^{13} or $CR^{14}R^{15}$;

Y is an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom or a group of the formula NR^{16} ,

$R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}$ and R^{16} are independently of each other H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, heteroalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, alkylcycloalkyl, heteroalkylcycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aralkyl or heteroaralkyl,

or two of $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}$ and R^{16} constitute part of a cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl ring system;

V is a linker and W is a polymer or a biomolecule.

Claim 8. (new) A compound of claim 7 where in the compound of the formula (I) is Tubulysin A.

Claim 9. (new) A compound of claim 7 wherein the polymer is a polyethylene glycol.

Claim 10. (new) A compound of claim 9 wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of more than 30 kDa.

Claim 11. (new) A compound of claim 7 wherein the biomolecule is an antibody.

Claim 12. (new) A method for treating a patient suffering cancer, comprising administering to the patient one or more compounds of claim 7.

Claim 13. (new) The method of claim 12 wherein the patient is identified as . suffering from cancer and the one or more compounds are administered to the identified patient.